



TIP OF THE SPEAR

NEW EMBASSY SECURITY REINFORCEMENT TEAMS IN THE MAKING



The Corps is forming squad-level teams for immediate embassy security reinforcement in response to calls for better protection of diplomatic facilities in the wake of the September 2012 attack in Benghazi, Libya. The Security Augmentation Unit will be based in Quantico, Va., as part of the Marine Corps Embassy Security Group, and composed of nine or 10 squad-level teams, totaling between 120 and 130 Marines. The teams will respond directly to distress calls from the ambassador, chief of mission or



regional security officer at the embassy.

[Read more](#)



PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Master Sgt. Cory Paskavan with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit reenlists April 26 at 10,000 feet above sea level during Exercise Eagle Resolve over Qatar. Eagle Resolve is an annual multilateral exercise designed to enhance regional cooperative defense efforts in the Gulf Cooperation Council nations and U.S. Central Command. *(Photo by Cpl. Christopher Q. Stone)*



IN THE NEWS

ALABAMA NATIVE RECEIVES SILVER STAR



Staff Sgt. Daniel Ridgeway received the Silver Star, the third highest combat award, during a ceremony April 30 at Camp Lejeune, N.C. Ridgeway, now assigned to Wounded Warrior Battalion-East, was cited "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy" while deployed to Afghanistan. While on patrol, a fellow Marine stepped on an improvised explosive device (IED). Ridgeway cared for the injured Marine and by hand cleared a 100-meter square landing zone so a helicopter could evacuate the wounded Marine. In clearing the path and landing zone, Ridgeway discovered and disarmed five IEDs. [Read more](#)

FIVE MORE WOMEN VOLUNTEER FOR INFANTRY COURSE



Five female lieutenants, the largest contingent so far, have volunteered to take on the Marine Corps' Infantry Officer Course (IOC) this summer, announced Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James F. Amos, April 16 at the House Armed Services Committee. The volunteers will take part in the difficult 13-week course at Quantico, Va., beginning in July, as part of Pentagon-mandated research into which new combat assignments may be opened to women in the future. [Read more](#)

ALL-MARINE TEAM GEARS UP FOR WARRIOR GAMES



The All-Marine Warrior Games team is wrapping up a two-week training camp in preparation for the fourth annual Warrior Games held at the Olympic Training Center and Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs,



Colo., May 10-16. Throughout the first week, the team used local facilities to acclimate to the area as they trained in swimming, track and field, volleyball, wheelchair basketball, cycling, shooting and archery. The Olympic-style competition gives wounded and ill warriors the chance to increase strength and relieve stress. [Read more](#)

MARINES ICE FISH WITH ALASKAN NATIVES



A small group of uniformed men made their way across what seemed to be an endless white desert April 11. In front of them was a massive body of frozen water; behind them, a long workday. With careful steps, 11 Marines and Sailors with 4th Medical Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, Marine Forces Reserve made their way across five-foot thick ice to participate in a different kind of classroom lesson -- ice fishing. Alaskan natives taught the group basics in catching Sheefish, a species unique to the Kotzebue Sound. [Read more](#)

MARINE CORPS ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES 100 YEARS



The Marine Corps Association (MCA) celebrated its 100th birthday April 25. The organization began in 1913 as a group of officers meeting regularly to discuss improvements to the officer corps, with the goal of establishing a periodical that would spread discussion across the Corps. "Our primary mission is to make sure our Marines continue to support the advancement of their leadership and then to reward them for the job they're doing out there," said retired Sgt. Maj. Kevin Bennett, MCA's area representative for Quantico and the National Capital Area. Now, the association is open to both active-duty members and veterans from any

service. [Read more](#)

MARINE CORPS WAR MEMORIAL COMPETING FOR GRANT



The Marine Corps War Memorial is in the running for a \$1 million



preservation grant that would be used to clean, wax and re-gild the outdoor sculpture, which depicts the iconic image of the second flag-raising on the island of Iwo Jima during World War II. The memorial reaches 60 feet above ground; cleaning it requires scaffolding and lifts so workers can reach every angle with specialized pressure washing equipment. They will need to beat out 23 other sites to be awarded the funds. Fans can vote for the Marine Corps War Memorial once per day through May 10, via online, mobile and social media platforms. [Read](#)

[more](#)

[Cast your vote](#)

NEW PARTNERSHIP TO HELP TRANSITIONING SERVICEMEMBERS GET TECH JOBS



First Lady Michelle Obama announced the IT Training and Certification Partnership April 29, a new public-private program that will help active military personnel receive the industry-recognized certifications that reflect the IT skills and expertise they gained through military service. The Partnership will provide opportunities for up to 161,000 service members to gain industry-recognized, nationally portable certifications necessary for 12 high-demand technology professions, including computer programmers, quality assurance engineers, and IT security analysts.

[Read more](#)



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

MAY 2, 1946

Marines from Treasure Island Marine Barracks, under the command of Warrant Officer Charles L. Buckner, aided in suppressing the three-day prison riot at Alcatraz Penitentiary in San Francisco Bay. Warrant Officer Buckner, a veteran of the Bougainville and Guam campaigns, ably led his force of Marines without suffering a single casualty.



SEMPER FI

NFL PROSPECT HALTS PURSUIT OF DREAM TO REENLIST



Brandon O'Brien, a 30-year-old receiver, is a Marine veteran and prior to April 16, was angling for a special teams spot with the NFL. Instead, he made the decision to reenlist in the Marines, deciding that he'd rather go hands-on in serving his country. "He actually told me 'sorry,'" said O'Brien's agent, Brad Berkowitz. "I said, 'You don't have to apologize for anything. I'm behind you 100 percent.' There's so much good in this guy. This is what America is made of." [Read more](#)

OUR MISSION

*In the words of Lt. Gen. Victor H. "Brute" Krulak, "The United States does not need a Marine Corps...the United States wants a Marine Corps." As America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness, the Marine Corps is deployed across the globe, standing ready to respond to any crisis. The Marine Corps Connection is your one-stop source for the latest Marine Corps news and is published weekly by the Division of Public Affairs at Headquarters Marine Corps. **Stay connected to your Marines!***



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